

M: 12-42-12
Adolphus Higgins House
Big Woods community
Private

1872-1895

This two story frame house with two rooms down and two up stood on property that was purchased by a Black family in 1872. The log kitchen that was attached to the back of this house may have been a portion of the original house, which this frame dwelling replaced.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi #
M-12-42-12

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Adolphus Higgins House (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side of Big Woods Road

CITY, TOWN Barnesville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

☒ VICINITY OF Big Woods community 8

STATE Maryland

COUNTY
Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME John T. Hardisty

Telephone #: 229-7738

STREET & NUMBER
5941 Searl Terrace

CITY, TOWN Bethesda

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 20016

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4555
Folio #: 213

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Rockville

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:12-42-12

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☒ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to Florence Hallman, community informant for Big Woods, this house was a frame dwelling with two rooms down and two up. They were heated by wood burning stoves and had double hung sash windows with 6 x 6 panes. It resembled the homes of the Gene Hackett and Henry T. Onley, which remain standing and which have been photographed as part of this survey. See descriptions of those sites for more details.

Mrs. Hallman recalls that there was a one room log kitchen attached to the rear of this house. Behind it was a meat house, and other out-buildings common to small farmsteads.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:12-42-12

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES **1872-1895**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house stood on land that was purchased by Adolph Higgins in 1872, soon after the Civil War and emancipation (deed EBP 10/405). It was purchased from James and Annie Trundle and consisted of 7 1/8 acres. The land cost \$142.50. It was a part of the tract known as "It May Be In Good Time". The Trundles owned a considerable amount of property in Big Woods and were one of the white families that sold lots to incoming Blacks after emancipation. Though Higgins did own land here in 1872, neither he nor any of the other Black landowners of Big Woods who were there at the time (except Rev. Elijah Awkard) were shown on the map of Medley's district in Hopkins' Atlas of 1879 of Montgomery County.

The other Black landowners of the 1870s in Big Woods built log houses, and it is unusual that Higgins' house was frame. Probably it was a replacement for an earlier log dwelling. Perhaps the kitchen attached to the back length was a part of the original house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
 Deeds: 4555/213; 2822/671; EBP 10/405
 Oral interviews with Florence Hallman (not taped) July-August, 1978.
 By George McDaniel, Big Woods Community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George McDaniel, Surveyor

Tamar Hoewing, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

August 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438